

## THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

Minutes of April 11, 2026 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Lee's Summit.

Members attending:

Canon Shirley Bolden  
Ms. Anne Breid  
Ms. Hayley Cobb  
The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, Dean, Northwest-Metro  
~~Ms. Kate French~~  
The Rev. Jonathan Galles  
Canon Mark Galus, Chancellor (non-voting)  
~~Ms. Amy Garcia~~  
The Rev. Canon Robin James, President, Standing Committee  
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Registrar/Archivist (non-voting)  
~~Anne Jetter Maas, Treasurer~~  
~~Canon Tom Kokjer, Assistant Treasurer (non-voting)~~  
Mr. Philip Lofflin  
The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, President/Bishop  
Mr. Phil Metz  
Ms. Amanda Perschall  
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, Southern  
Mr. Raja Reed  
~~Ms. Jen Snider, Vice Chancellor (non-voting)~~  
The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage  
~~The Rev. Cn. John Spicer~~  
~~The Rev. Donna Stanford, Secretary~~  
~~Ms. Judy Turner, President, Episcopal Church Women~~  
~~Mr. Hayden Vaughn~~  
Ms. Elisa White  
The Very Rev. David Wilcox, Dean, Central

Also attending:           The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks, Canon for Common Mission  
                                  Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator

1. **Call to Order, Devotion and Opening Prayer.**
  - a. The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
  - b. The Rev. Jonathan Galles led the Council in a devotion and prayer.
2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.**

The President reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda, and hearing no objection, she declared the following items were:

  - a. Approved: March 14, 2026 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
  - b. Received: April 1, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes
  - c. Received: Finance Committee report

- d. Phil Metz moved, Amanda Perschall seconded, to approve the consent agenda.

**Motion Passed**

**3. Reports.**

**a. Deanery Reports**

**i. Southern Deanery**

The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, reported that monthly clericus meetings are being held and the next deanery meeting will be in June in Springfield.

**ii. Central Deanery**

The Very Rev. David Wilcox, Dean, reported that the next deanery meeting will be held April 18 via Zoom, to elect a new vice-chair and secretary.

**iii. Northwest-Metro Deanery**

The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, Dean, reported that the next meeting will be Thursday, April 23 at 5 pm and they will be discussing preparation for the World Cup (which will be held in Kansas City); Mtr. Miranda is looking for Kansas Clergy who might be interested in being part of the discussion. A clericus meeting is also planned.

**b. Standing Committee Report**

The Rev. Cn. Robin James, President, reported that the Standing Committee met on March 10 and is in the process of developing bylaws.

**c. Registrar's/Archivist's Report**

The Rev. Chandler Jackson III had no report.

**d. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had no report.

**e. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had no report.

Ron Weil reported there were no action items from the last finance committee meeting. He noted that the Remfry Trust disbursed \$55,000 for the first quarter, up from the \$40,000 that was received quarterly in 2025. The higher amount reflects that the market has been doing well recently. The Diocesan Center Expense was high because of a \$9,000 payment to Holy Trinity, which had been budgeted, and was used with a matching amount from Holy Trinity to pay for upkeep of the courtyard. The LOC in the amount \$110,000 that was provided to Bishop Amy was repaid in March.

**f. Vice President's Report**

The Vice President had no report.

**g. Canon for Common Mission's Report**

The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks reported he visited many parishes around the Diocese; there are several churches in transition, with a couple more being added to the list in the next few months. The Diocesan Convention will hold the opening service and reception at the Cathedral, with the business meeting on Saturday taking place at the Convention Center across the street. Cn. Chas has been reviewing the applications

for the new diocesan position; there is a good candidate pool and hoping to get a few more before the application period ends.

Church of the Redeemer in Kansas City has requested curacy funds for a new position. The request is for 50% for the first year, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  for the second year. This would equal approximately \$40,102 for year one and \$24,061 for year two. The Rev. Cn. Robin James moved to fund the request to support a curacy at Church of the Redeemer at 50% for the first year and 33.3% in the second year, seconded by Phil Metz.

**Motion Passed**

#### **h. Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reminded Council members that it is important to rsvp to the meetings. With regard to the Council retreat, Emily Davenport has taken the newsprints with post-it notes representing the discussion of Diocesan priorities, and recreated them into a word document. It will be included in next month's Council packet.

The House of Bishops had a fantastic meeting, especially a conversation about priestly formation and education, theology, and what is essential of the priesthood. The conversation included many people from leadership roles in various seminaries. The group went through the ordination rite and created a list, "The Marks of Preparation for Ordination," which includes (in order): obedience, faithfulness, ability to proclaim the Gospel, teach, be a wholesome example, humility, sacrifice, and prayer. Additionally, it was noted that fluency in new media, cultural competency, flexibility, and realism are also important characteristics to emphasize.

Another important conversation centered on communion under special circumstances, which led to a discussion among the Diocesan Council regarding how we are helping those churches in our Diocese with special needs. Of note from that conversation: the Diocese has struggled for many years now with the definition of what is a mission vs what is a parish, does there need to be a distinction, and are we doing all we can to support those missions according to the guidance in the Canons? The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage encouraged Council members to consider this in order to move forward with better support for our lower-attending locations. The conversation will be added to new business in June to allow for an extended conversation; information for members to consider will be provided ahead of that time.

In other news, staff reviews are done and all went well. The Bishop made several visits during Holy Week and enjoyed participating in those services.

#### **4. Old Business**

- Discuss service of Council members as liaisons  
There are very many committees, which can be divided into three categories: Canonically required, governance-related, and ministry-related. It was noted that the Finance Committee has not had a quorum for the last two meetings and may need Council attention. Amanda Perschall suggested that the Council do intentional work to encourage church members with financial backgrounds to consider joining the Committee. Bishop Amy will meet with the Treasurer and two other members of the Committee to plan that. In looking at the other committees, it was pointed out that many do not have a Council member and we are

encouraged to think about filling in the empty spots to ensure a Diocesan connection.

A noon prayer was led by Fr. Jonathan Galles and the Council took a break for lunch at 11:50 a.m. The Council resumed its meeting at 12:15 p.m. with a call to order by Bishop Amy.

- Under a continuation of Old Business, the Executive Committee recommended that the money from the sale of St. Paul's Church, Maryville, in the amount of \$220,366, be moved to the DFMS portfolio. Amanda Perschall so moved and Shirley Bolden seconded.

**Motion Passed**

#### 5. New Business

- The Executive Committee recommended that the Council task the Strategic Planning Commission with discernment regarding the allocation/distribution of the \$220,366 proceeds from the sale of St. Paul's Church, Maryville. Amanda Perschall so moved, seconded by Raja Reed.

**Motion Passed**

- The Executive Committee recommended that the Council task the Strategic Planning Commission with discernment regarding the goals and objectives of the Expansion Fund. Amanda Perschall so moved, seconded by Haley Cobb.

**Motion Passed**

- Elect a replacement to fill vacant clergy seat on Council, which was held by Mtr. Miranda Cully before her election as Dean of the Northwest Metro Deanery. The Rev. Cn. Robin James moved to postpone the election to the next meeting, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox.

**Motion passed**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjock moved to adjourn, seconded by Phil Metz. The **motion carried**, and the Bishop adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Elisa White,  
Recording Secretary